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1 April 1959

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

THROUGH: Chief, Administrative Staff, ORR

THROUGH: Chief, Economic Research, ORR

THROUGH: Chief, Planning and Review Staff, ORR

THROUGH: Chief, Industrial Division, ORR

FROM: Chief, Manufacturing Sectors Branch, D/I

SUBJECT: Memorandum of conversation with [REDACTED] 25X1A5a1  
25X1A5a1 [REDACTED] at Washington, D.C., 23 March  
1959, regarding proposed personal service contract.

REFERENCE: [REDACTED] 25X1A2g

1. Purpose of conversation.

25X1A5a1 [REDACTED] attendance at the Conference on Asian Studies at the Sheraton-Park Hotel was utilized by myself and [REDACTED] of this branch as 25X1A9a an opportunity to determine his suitability and availability for performing a personal service contract related to our research responsibilities. Source was cautioned that the talks were purely exploratory and that specific terms of reference could not be discussed until the project had been approved by higher authority.

2. Description of proposed project.

~~A brief tentative outline of the proposed research topic is attached.~~  
Such a project would support current ORR research needs. The terms of reference for NIE 13-59 required D/I among other things to "analyze the technical feasibility of small-scale projects being undertaken." However, only a superficial examination of this topic could be accomplished in the time allowed. If approved, the project would require the equivalent of 4-6 months full time research, of which [REDACTED] could devote full time during the summer 25X1A9a and part-time during the fall. A target date of November-December 1959 would be desirable to support scheduled NIE/MIS research on Communist China. Source would exploit unclassified Chinese-language materials available at [REDACTED] 25X1A5a1  
25X1A5a1 [REDACTED] and the Library of Congress. This project would be on an unclassified basis except, perhaps, for necessary background statements to be classified no higher than Confidential.

[REDACTED] 25X9A6A

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4. Plans for [REDACTED]

25X1A5a1

As head of this institute which seeks to become more widely recognized in the field of Asian studies, [REDACTED] is attempting to enlist government and private support for the following projects: (1) a study of the consistency and validity of Chinese Communist economic and sociological statistics; (2) an updating of his Survey through 1958; (3) a study of Chinese Communist penetration in southeast Asia, not only through trade deals, but also through banking arrangements and other forms of indirect influence. He would be very willing, however, to undertake other short-term research projects such as the one outlined above.

5. Recommendations:

Further study is being given the advisability of having [REDACTED] perform the proposed research project. If it is deemed desirable to have [REDACTED] undertake the study, a comprehensive and detailed contract proposal will be submitted separately.

6. Commitments:

No commitments were made, other than assurances that efforts would be made to complete action on this proposal as soon as practicable.

[REDACTED] 25X1A9a